

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated May 24, 2002. The Examiner rejected claims 11, 12, 15-20, 23, 24 and 27-30. Claims 13-14, 21-22 and 25-26 were objected to by the Examiner. Claims 11-30 remain pending in the application.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the titles of the abstract and the entire disclosure for not being properly descriptive. Applicant has amended the title of the abstract and the entire disclosure to more accurately describe the invention.

Also in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested that the specification should be updated to include additional data regarding issued patent applications associated with the current application. Applicant has amended the specification to include this relevant information.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-2, 15-20, 23-24 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gambale et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,922,924). The Examiner suggests that Gambale et al. disclose all of the elements of the current application. Applicant has amended claim 11 to more accurately describe the location of the radiopaque markers on the elongated shaft. Applicant respectfully asserts that Gambale et al. teach a coil assembly (14) including alternating radiopaque and non-radiopaque coils (24, 30). (Column 3, lines 11-16.) The coil assembly (14) is located at the distal end of the elongated shaft (10). (Column 2, lines 8-12 and 36-37.) Conversely, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 11 states "a plurality of radiopaque markers disposed on the shaft proximal of the coil tip."

Therefore, Applicant points out that the radiopaque markers (50) are not the coil tip (58) and are proximally located from the coil tip (58). Applicant respectfully asserts that this language sufficiently distinguishes claims 7 from Gambale et al. Furthermore, Applicant believes

additional independent claims 15 and 23 contain similar language regarding the location of the radiopaque markers distinguishing them from Gambale et al. Additional claims 12, 16-20, 24 and 27-30 depend from corresponding independent claims 11, 15 or 23 and contain significant additional elements; therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claims 11-12, 15-20, 23-24 and 27-30 are in condition for allowance.

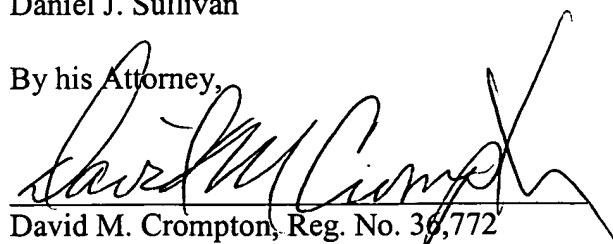
In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 13-14, 21-22 and 25-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully asserts that in accordance to the above remarks, claims 13-14, 21-22 and 25-26 are in condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 11-30, are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,



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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

The title at line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

[GUIDEWIRE WITH MULTIPLE RADIOPAQUE SECTIONS AND METHOD OF USE] GUIDEWIRE WITH MULTIPLE RADIOPAQUE MARKER SECTIONS

The abstract title at line 1 of page 18 has been amended as follows:

[GUIDEWIRE WITH MULTIPLE RADIOPAQUE SECTIONS AND METHOD OF USE] GUIDEWIRE WITH MULTIPLE RADIOPAQUE MARKER SECTIONS

The paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/673,674, filed June 26, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,179,788; which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 07/969,047, filed October 30, 1992, now abandoned; which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No. 07/452,710, filed December 19, 1989, now U.S. Patent No. 5,209,730.

In the Claims:

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Once Amended) An intravascular guidewire, comprising:
an elongate shaft having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion comprising a solid wire which tapers distally, the distal portion having a distal end portion including [comprising] a radiopaque coil tip disposed at the distal end portion; and
a plurality of radiopaque markers disposed on the shaft proximal of the coil tip, the markers defining a plurality of longitudinal spaces therebetween.

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